Dear Sixth Grade Parents!

**¡Bienvenidos! — Welcome to Sixth Grade Spanish!**

Just a short while ago, the above greeting would not have been possible as plans to implement a FLES (Foreign Language in Elementary School) program were only in the earliest stages of formulation by a small but passionate group of visionaries well-acquainted and respectful of budgetary constraints and competing district educational needs. Fortunately, the comprehensive planning, research, and rationale for providing our K-6 students with an opportunity for world language learning won strong BOE and parental support and FLES was born in Stratford.

Sixth grade is an exciting and transitional year as students begin study from the secondary Spanish text, *Exprésate,* which is used in levels 1-3. This series takes a more focused look at advancing levels of grammar and language usage beginning in 7th grade where classes will meet on a daily basis. The K-5 curriculum introduces Spanish through a variety of themes with related key vocabulary which students incorporate in their speaking, reading, and writing exercises. Grades for their report card are based upon the completion of projects and exercises associated with each theme. Now, in sixth grade, students will apply their acquired Spanish knowledge with *Exprésate,* which will require more content specific assessments throughout the year, more homework assignments, and pre-assessment study as students prepare for greater rigor in 7th grade. Report card grades will be more reflective of their *Exprésate* assessment results as they would be in higher grades so more intense study is encouraged.

The world language department thanks you for your support as members strive to offer the rewards of foreign language study as part of your child's comprehensive education. Knowledge of a second and/or third language and culture is a critical 21st century learning skill. Every student should have the opportunity to benefit from a wide variety of individual study areas, which combine to contribute to a lifetime of intellectual growth, productivity, satisfaction, and well-being.

Sincerely, K-6 Spanish teachers